

## COMMENTS

### I. Status of claims

Claims 1, 4-8, and 12-16 were pending. Claims 1, 4, 5, 15, and 16 have been amended. Claims 17-21 have been added.

Claims 1 and 6 are independent claims. Claims 4, 5, and 12-16 depend from independent claim 1, and claims 7 and 8 depend from independent claim 6.

### II. Allowed claims

The Examiner has indicated that claims 6-8 have been allowed.

### III. Objections to the Specification and the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the specification and the drawings because of the recitation in claim 1 of "an edge region opposed by ... the reservoir."

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the sealing member has a bottom side with "an edge region facing and overlying the reservoir and being unattached to the reservoir." The specification and the drawings clearly support this claim language. For example, with respect to one exemplary embodiment, the specification recites that (page 8, line 25 through page 7, line 7):

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, reference numerals 24, 24' generally indicate two lateral margins of deadened adhesive located at the ends of the label 16. The deadened adhesive is preferably formed by a very thin film of polyester that creates a zone in which the label does not adhesively bond to the reservoir 14.

FIG. 2 clearly shows an embodiment that includes a sealing member that has a bottom side with an edge region (the edge region that includes the lateral margin of deadened adhesive 24) that faces and overlies the reservoir 14 and is unattached to the reservoir 14 (because of the deadened adhesive 24).

For at least these reasons, the Examiner's objections to the specification and the drawings now should be withdrawn.

IV. Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4, 5, and 12-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, because of the recitation in claim 1 of "an edge region opposed by ... the reservoir." Claim 1 has been amended and no longer contains this claim language. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, now should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has not rejected any of claims 4, 13, and 14 on the basis of prior art. Accordingly, these claims now are in condition for allowance.

V. Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 5, 12, 15, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Higuma (U.S. 5,701,995). Higuma, however, fails to teach or suggest a sealing member that has a bottom side with an edge region that faces and overlies the reservoir and is unattached to the reservoir, and a top side that includes a region that is bonded to the packaging material and overlies the unattached edge region of the bottom side of the sealing member, as now recited in independent claim 1.

With reference to FIG. 15, the Examiner has indicated that Higuma discloses a sealing member with "an edge region (portion of 5 left of 3) opposed by and unattached to the reservoir (Fig. 15), and a top side with a major substantially planar portion (5b) bonded to the packaging material including a region opposite the edge region of the bottom side of the sealing member (5b is opposite portion of 5 left of 3, Fig. 15)." However, the top side region of Higuma's sealing tape 5 that overlies the unattached bottom side edge region ("portion of 5 left of 3") is not bonded to the packaging material, as required by claim 1.

For at least this reason, the Examiner's rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Higuma should be withdrawn.

Dependent claims 5, 12, 15, and 16 incorporate the features of independent claim 1 and therefore are patentable for at least the same reason. Claims 5, 12, and 15 also are patentable for the following additional reasons.

Claim 5 recites that *the* unattached bottom side edge region (i.e., the bottom side edge region that faces and overlies the reservoir) of the sealing member include a lateral margin of deadened adhesive. The Examiner has indicated that Higuma discloses that "the bottom side edge region of the sealing member corresponds to a lateral margin of deadened adhesive (5a, the bottom edge extends to 5a)." However, bottom side of region 5a of Higuma's sealing tape 5 does not face and overlie the container cartridge 1, as required by claim 5.

Claim 12 incorporates the features of claim 5 and therefore is patentable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 15 recites that all regions of the bottom side of the sealing member face and overlie a wall of the reservoir. The Examiner has indicated that Higuma discloses that "each bottom side region of the sealing member is opposed by a wall of the reservoir (Fig. 15)." However, FIG. 15 of Higuma clearly shows that only roughly half of the bottom side of sealing tape 5 faces and overlies container cartridge 1; most of the remaining part of the bottom side of sealing tape 5 faces away from the container cartridge 1.

For at least these additional reasons, the Examiner's rejection of dependent claims 5, 12, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Higuma should be withdrawn.

#### VI. New claims

Each of new claims 17-21 incorporates the features of independent claim 1 and, therefore, these claims are patentable for at least the same reasons.

#### VII. Conclusion

For the reasons explained above, all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance and should be allowed.

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APPENDIX

Marked-up versions of the claimed amended by the Response filed April 15, 2003, are presented below.

In the claims:

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1. (Third Amendment) A package assembly [for an ink-jet reservoir], comprising:  
an ink-jet reservoir having a fluid orifice;  
packaging material sealed to enclose the ink-jet reservoir; and  
a sealing member having a bottom side with a bonding region bonded to the reservoir and sealing the orifice and an edge region facing and overlying the reservoir [opposed by] and being unattached to the reservoir, and a top side [with a major substantially planar portion bonded to the packaging material] including a region bonded to the packaging material and overlying [opposite] the unattached edge region of the bottom side of the sealing member.

4. (Third Amendment) The package assembly of claim 1, wherein the packaging material is clear and the sealing member includes [is] a label configured [with the top side exposed] to be read through the packaging material.

5. (Second Amendment) The package assembly of claim 1, wherein the unattached bottom side edge region of the sealing member includes [corresponds to] a lateral margin of deadened adhesive.

15. (Second Amendment) The package assembly of claim 1 [5], wherein all regions of the [each] bottom side [region] of the sealing member face and overlie [is opposed by] a wall of the reservoir.

16. (First Amendment) The package [packaging] assembly of claim 1, wherein bonding strength between the [major substantially planar portion of the] sealing member top side and the packaging material is greater than bonding strength between the bonding region of the sealing member bottom side and the reservoir.